

DIABETES IN KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS

DIABETES IS A COMMON DISEASE:

υ Diabetes greatly affects the African American population of Kentucky. From **1997-1999**, 8.5% of African Americans in Kentucky had diagnosed diabetes compared to only 5.9% of White Kentuckians. The rate of diagnosed diabetes is 1.4 times higher in Kentucky African Americans than in White Kentuckians. African American females have disproportionately higher rates of the disease compared to African American males, White males, and White females. It is estimated that **1** out of every **5** black women aged 55 or older in Kentucky has diabetes.

Percentage of diagnosed diabetes 1997-1999

<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Black women	9.5
Black men	7.3
White women	5.9
White men	5.8

DIABETES IS A CONTROLLABLE DISEASE:

υ Current scientific evidence indicates that much of the morbidity and mortality associated with diabetes can be eliminated through aggressive treatment approaches to normalize blood glucose levels including routine physician visits, self-management training, a dilated eye exam, a foot exam, and a glycosylated hemoglobin level check.

υ Unfortunately, a wide gap still exists between current and desired diabetes care and practices. Differences are observed between Whites and African Americans in terms of diabetes care and practices. These differences could be due in part that more African Americans report seeing the doctor for their diabetes than Whites and thus could receive care services more often. This is only a speculation, and further examination of the data over time is needed to determine trend patterns. From 1997-1999, the following behavioral practices were reported by individuals with diabetes.

Behavioral Practice	African Americans	Whites
Seeing health professional for diabetes = 1 time in the past yr.	97%	87%
Receiving a dilated eye exam within the past yr.	78%	61%
Receiving a foot exam = 1 time in the past yr.	71%	55%
Having hemoglobin A1C checked = 1 time within the past yr.	21%	14%
Receiving a flu vaccination within the past 12 months (1999)	60%	57%
Ever having a pneumonia vaccination (1999)	17%	37%

DIABETES IS A COMMON YET CONTROLLABLE DISEASE AFFECTING KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS AT A DISPROPORTIONATE RATE.

Data Sources: 1997-1999 Kentucky Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

